

give a course of talks or papers. The invitation is extended both to the guest speaker and his wife, with request that, in their travel, they feel free to use the best accommodations. Locally, a hotel suite is secured, and social and other courtesies are extended. The guest speaker is usually requested to indicate at what time during the spring months it may be possible for him to come to San Jose, to deliver a series of five lectures, one each evening, beginning at 8 p. m. On one of the five evenings, an informal banquet is held, to which ladies are invited. The guest speaker has the privilege of choosing his own topics, and experience has shown that this procedure works out in advantageous manner.

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**The Manner in Which Funds Are Raised.**—Comes now the interesting way in which money is raised to cover the expenses involved. The San Jose Hospital has about 125 beds, with an attending staff of about seventy-five members. Three dollars of each staff member's annual dues are earmarked for the lecture work. The hospital also does emergency work for the city of San Jose, staff members indicating whether they choose to participate in such services. A portion of the fee received for the first emergency visit is also earmarked for the lecture course. In this manner, a fund has been created, with a substantial reserve, making it possible for the San Jose Hospital Association to carry on its postgraduate work in excellent manner.

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**Other Advantages of the Course.**—The attendance at the lectures, year after year, has been uniformly good. The one dinner meeting, with table groups, to which ladies are invited, creates an opportunity for pleasing social and fraternal relationships. It is the opinion of the colleagues who have had much to do with the plan that the lectures have been important factors, not only in maintaining a zest in postgraduate studies, but in creating harmonious relations and good understanding among the members of the local profession. It may be added, too, that invitations to attend this year's lectures were extended not only to the members of the Santa Clara County Medical Society, but also to the members of the societies in the adjacent counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and San Mateo.

As previously stated, the San Jose plan is worthy of careful consideration by hospital and society groups.

#### ON VARIOUS TOPICS

**Medical Preparedness.**—Delay in construction of barracks, due to weather and other causes, has necessitated a rearrangement of the calendar schedules applying to California draftees, who are to be inducted into the Army under the Selective Service Act. All signs point, however, to a rapid concentration of troops, once the housing and other conditions are met. It follows that assignments to the medical corps of Army, Navy and Aviation

services will then likewise take place in rapid sequence. Physicians who are in the selective service age limits, or who hold commissions in the Reserve Corps of the military services, will do well, therefore, to arrange their affairs so that they may be available, should orders to report for duty come to them. It is important to appreciate that officers, who are in command of the Army, Navy and Aviation medical services, will wish and intend to properly staff, with physicians and surgeons, their respective hospitals and troop groups. On page 33 of the January issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, appeared a table, perusal of which will orient members concerning the staff set-ups of army hospitals. It is worthy of inspection, especially by those who are in the Reserve Corps.

Readers are also reminded to scan, each month, the items which appear in the columns allotted to the California Committee on Medical Preparedness, the page number of which is always indicated on the front cover index. That committee invites correspondence from members of the Association who seek additional information in these matters, and may be addressed: California Medical Association Committee on Medical Preparedness, Philip K. Gilman, M. D., chairman, 450 Sutter, San Francisco.

Before passing on to other topics, the two-day postgraduate conference and symposium on military medicine, held in San Diego on February 1-2, should be mentioned.\* It is possible that similar symposia could be developed in a number of other military centers in California. If that were done, the message from military authorities could more promptly be brought to physicians in all sections of the State, so that harmonious and wholehearted coöperation in medical activities would be in evidence from the very beginning, under changing conditions which, within a few months, may create important modifications in civil practice.

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**Legislation: State and National.**—The military emergencies which face us seem to have had a deterrent influence on the legislative plans of certain new-thoughters; who, in recent years have vociferously expounded their "welfare" (save the mark) doctrines. This is indicated by the lesser number of proposed laws that have been placed in the assembly and senate hoppers at Sacramento. The members of the Legislature have evidently been less pestered this year, both by individual and group constituents having axes to grind, which tools they proposed to sharpen as weapons, in the form of new statutes designed to make their plans apply to the state's citizenry. All this is to the good, for, assuredly, something is amiss when laws by the hundreds must be enacted every two years.

Rumor states that Governor Olson's group will again sponsor a compulsory health [sickness] law, although at the time of this writing—on January 22—the proposed statute and its sponsors are still unknown. It may be assumed that such a measure will incorporate most of the provisions contained

\* For program, see page 89.

in a compulsory health act that was drafted last year, intended then for circulation as an initiative, and designed to go on the November, 1940, ballot; but which, for good reasons, failed so to appear. If such a measure is presented in either or both legislative chambers at Sacramento, the newspapers will no doubt make due mention of the fact.

In the last Congress, Honorable Robert F. Wagner, Senator from New York, sponsored the "National Health [Sickness] Act of 1939" (S. 1620). In the new Seventy-seventh Congress in session, a similar measure will probably be submitted by Senator Wagner. From a statement given by him to the Associated Press the following may be inferred:†

It is indicated in this statement that the plan will provide for federal and state cooperation in a broad program calculated to cost \$98,000,000 in the first year. It is further stated in the Associated Press item that Mr. Wagner had conferred with the President before the President's message to Congress was delivered on January 6, and had said that it is likely that an expansion of health facilities can be worked out in connection with the defense program. It is further stated that the general health program as tentatively outlined will call for cooperation between federal and state governments in construction of hospitals, payment of compensation for disability wage losses and expansion of maternal, infant, child health and welfare service, general public health services and general medical care. The sum of \$35,000,000 is mentioned in the press statement as the amount to be available during the first year for the operation of approved state plans for medical care. Appropriations of \$10,000,000 in federal grants for temporary disability compensation, \$8,000,000 for hospital construction, \$13,000,000 for medical services to children, \$15,000,000 for general public health work and \$8,000,000 for maternal and child health services are to be authorized, and smaller amounts are to be set aside for administration and for investigations.

If Senator Wagner carries out his plans in the present session of Congress, in accord with the above, there will be little difference from provisions laid down in his "National Health Act of 1939," as presented in his Senate Bill 1620.

Before the close of the present session of the California Legislature, additional comment will be made. During the month of February, the Legislature will be in constitutional recess, giving good opportunity for conference and maintenance of friendly, personal contacts. Component county societies and members should keep in mind, however, that endorsement or approvals of pending legislation should be given only through the California Medical Association Committee on Legislation and Public Policy. Otherwise, embarrassing situations may arise in committee hearings.

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#### **Annual Session at Del Monte, May 5-8, 1941.**

In previous issues information has been given concerning the next annual session of the California Medical Association to be held at the Hotel Del Monte, from Monday, May 5, through Thursday, May 8.‡ On January 19 the Committee on Scientific

† For other comment on legislative matters, see items on page 88.

‡ For information concerning papers, scientific exhibits, films, and hotel reservations and rates, see CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, January, 1941, on page 30; this issue, on page 91.

Work of the California Medical Association held a joint session with the Secretaries of the twelve scientific sections. At that time the programs of the four general meetings, one to be held on each of the four mornings, and the topics and speakers for the section meetings to be held in the afternoons, were fully discussed.

The Thursday programs this year will have two interesting features. The morning program will be given over to military medicine, and, in the afternoon, the Sections on Medicine and Surgery will join in presenting two panel discussions, in which guest speakers will take part.

On Sunday, May 4, the California Heart Association, the Radiologists, the Pathologists, the County Secretaries, and the California Medical Association Council will hold their meetings. The "Pre-Convention Bulletin" to appear in April, will give detailed information.

This year's session will be a full four-day series for many physicians who are planning to go to Del Monte. Members of the Association, therefore, are urged to arrange their schedules of professional work to make possible attendance for at least one or two days. The time so used will be well and profitably spent!

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**Other State Association and Component County Society News.—Additional news concerning the activities and work of the California Medical Association and its component county medical societies is printed in this issue, commencing on page 83.**

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## **EDITORIAL COMMENT†**

### **HEPATIC CANCEROGEN**

The extraction of a new carcinogenic factor from the livers of persons who have died of extra-hepatic malignant disease is currently reported by Steiner<sup>1</sup> of the University of Chicago.

Eight livers from patients with carcinoma of the stomach, lungs, esophagus, pancreas, or rectum were ground and preserved in an equal volume of 95 per cent alcohol. These livers were free from demonstrable metastasis. The alcoholic emulsions of these livers were then saponified with KOH, repeatedly extracted with ethylene dichlorid, and the pooled extract evaporated to dryness. The saponification process was repeated and the final unsaponified residue dissolved by warming in an equal volume of sesame oil. In repeated control tests sesame oil was found to be noncarcinogenic.

About 0.5 cubic centimeters of the sesame solution was injected subcutaneously in the intrascapular region of fifty-six full-grown white mice.

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† This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comments by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California Medical Association to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.

<sup>1</sup> Steiner, Paul E.: Science, 92, 431 (Nov. 8), 1940.